

Amendment to the Claims

Claims 1-11 (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A hybrid pipette comprising:

a pipette casing;

a slide shaft vertically movable in response to an operation of a pushbutton;

a plunger disposed below said slide shaft, said plunger being vertically movable together with said slide shaft as one unit;

an electric motor provided in coaxial relation to said slide shaft, said electric motor having an internally threaded hole;

a tubular threaded member with an external thread on an outer periphery thereof, said tubular threaded member being coaxially and movably fitted on said slide shaft and being thread-engaged with the internally threaded hole in said electric motor to allow said slide shaft to move vertically; and

at least one spring interposed between a predetermined position on said slide shaft and said tubular threaded member to urge said slide shaft and said plunger upwardly so that a predetermined portion of said slide shaft or said plunger abuts against a predetermined portion of said tubular threaded member or the said pipette casing;

wherein, in a manual operation mode, said slide shaft and said plunger move vertically in response to the operation of said pushbutton to perform suction and discharge of a liquid; and

wherein, in a motor-driven operation mode, said tubular threaded member is driven by said electric motor so as to move vertically ~~by said electric motor~~, whereby thereby said plunger is moved vertically to perform suction and discharge of a liquid, and the length of said spring is maintained constant with no extension or compression thereof in the motor-driven operation mode.

13.(Original) A hybrid pipette according to claim 12, wherein said at least one spring is interposed between an upper end of said tubular threaded member projecting above said electric motor and an upper portion of said slide shaft within said pipette casing.

14.(Currently Amended) A hybrid pipette according to claim 12, wherein said slide shaft and said plunger are fabricated integrally as a single member.

15.(Currently Amended) A hybrid pipette according to claim 12, wherein said slide shaft and said plunger are fabricated as separate members and joined together as one unit by screwing one of said slide shaft and said plunger into the other of them or by using a pin.

Claim 16-28 (Cancelled)

29.(Currently Amended) A hybrid pipette according to claim 13, wherein said slide shaft and said plunger are fabricated integrally as a single member.

30.(Currently Amended) A hybrid pipette according to claim 13, wherein said slide shaft and said plunger are fabricated as separate members and joined together as one unit by screwing one of said slide shaft and said plunger into the other of them or by using a pin.

31.(Previously Presented) A hybrid pipette according to claim 12, wherein said electric motor is a direct-current motor, said direct-current motor being provided with a brake mechanism.

32.(Previously Presented) A hybrid pipette according to claim 12, wherein said electric motor is a pulse motor.

33.(Currently Amended) A hybrid pipette according to claim 12, further ~~comprising~~:
comprising a battery for driving said electric motor.

34.(Currently Amended) A hybrid pipette according to claim 42 13, wherein said electric motor is a direct-current motor, said direct-current motor being provided with a brake mechanism.

35.(Currently Amended) A hybrid pipette according to claim 42 13, wherein said electric motor is a pulse motor.

36.(Currently Amended) A hybrid pipette according to claim 42 13, further
~~comprising:~~ comprising a battery for driving said electric motor.